

Appendix to "Justise Must Take Plase": Three African Americans Speak of Religion in Eighteenth-Century New England

*These first documents relate to Greenwich and his wife Peg. The one that follows is the couple's freedom papers. This was the most dramatic and emotional find in my research for this project. Until I discovered this document, I did not know if Greenwich and Peg ever gained their freedom, despite Greenwich's eloquent plea in 1754. After many hours of fruitless searching, I chanced upon this document and cheered aloud that liberty was finally theirs.*

Canterbury, Connecticut, Deeds, vol. 9, 1773-1778, Land Records, reel 147. Reprinted with permission of the Connecticut State Library, Hartford, 1999.

[140] Know all men by these presents that I Benjamin Bacon of Canterbury in the County of Windham in the Colony of Connecticut in New-England for the Consideration of Thirty pounds lawful money rec'd to my full Satisfaction of Greenwich a Negro man about Forty nine years of Age and also of Pegg a Negro woman about Forty years of Age do by these presents release, acquit & give up to the said Greenwich and Pegg all the Right, Title, Claim, Challenge or Demand Whatsoever that I have or ought to have to them the said Greenwich & Pegg as Servants or Slaves by virtue of a Bill of Sale from Capt. Joseph Eaton of Plainfield, dated July 4th 1776, or by virtue of any other Bill of Sale whatsoever. And that the said Greenwich and Pegg shall from time to time and at all times forever hereafter enjoy the same priviledges with the freeborn Subjects of any of the American Colonies notwithstanding any former Claim, Challenge or Demand of myself or my heirs or any other person or persons claiming by from or under me or them. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of July A.D. 1776.

Benjamin Bacon

In presence of Obadiah Johnson, John Felch